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concerning the interest attaching to folk-lore museums. The project of establishing such a museum, in connection with the work of collection carried on by the Chapter, having been suggested by a member, has been favorably received, and will be acted on during the following winter, when provision will be made for the care of the collection. A folk-lore library has already been established in connection with the Chapter, under the care of Mr. John W. Jordan, at the rooms of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, where it will be accessible for consultation by members of the Chapter, and others who may be interested.

MARRIAGE OF A WIDOW IN A SHIFT. — I find in Shearf and Westcoat's "History of Philadelphia," 1884, vol. ii. p. 1687, the following passage, which may be of interest to the readers of the "Journal of American Folk-Lore": —

"It is not doubtful that the ancient English tradition in regard to the marriage of a widow was carried into practice in Philadelphia in or about the year 1734. The tradition runs that the lady, clad in a single and most intimate garment, was stationed behind the door of her room; her arm was protruded through an opening in the door, and the minister officiated with that barrier between the bride and the groom. The arrangement was in consonance with the vulgar idea that a widow could only be held responsible for the debts of a deceased husband to the extent of what she carried upon her person when she was married a second time; hence grew the custom of 'marrying in the shift.' Kalm, writing in 1748, cites an instance of a widow affecting to leave all to her husband's creditors, and 'going from her former house to that of her second husband in her chemise.' Her new husband met her upon the way, and, throwing his cloak about her, cried out, 'I have lent her the garments.' The ceremony was most curiously like the marriage investiture that prevails to the present time in the eastern provinces of Hindostan."

W. J. Potts.

CAMDEN, N. J.

CANT AND THIEVES' JARGON. The article in the present number by Mr. W. C. Wilde may call attention to the question of the existence of a thieves' jargon in America, and to the point whether this jargon is purely European in character or has developed any special features in this country. The peculiar views of Mr. Wilde, on the old English origin of many of the words given by Matsell, will be regarded as open to controversy, since etymologies based on resemblance of sound go for little in modern philology. But the point which concerns us most is, whether the work of Matsell is really a reproduction of American Cant, or a free invention of his own, based on English works. We must confess that many of Matsell's words appear to us exceedingly fishy, and that the differences between those he gives and those contained in English glossaries may, as it seems to us, be mere careless errors of his own. There is a field for any one who has time and opportunity, to explore from personal observa-